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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor : Satoshi Sumino, et al.  
Serial No. : 10/733,187  
Filed : 12/11/2003  
For : SWITCHING APPARATUS

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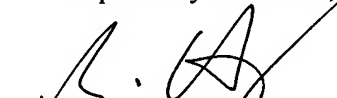
Director of the U.S. Patent and  
Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR STATUS OF APPLICATION**

SIR:

Not having received any documentation from the Patent and Trademark Office in the last 12 months, please let us know the status of this application at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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